

HISTORY 702B Colloquium in American History since 1865
Spring 2010
Bolton

Office: MHRA 2135
Office Hours: 1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. M, or by appointment.
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This class will introduce students to some of the major interpretations and works about American history since 1865.

The major assignment for this class is to do the weekly reading and engage with the material you encounter. A sizeable part of your grade will be determined by your participation in discussion opportunities. Non-participation or weak participation will obviously result in a low grade. I define participation qualitatively, not quantitatively. In addition to participating in our weekly class discussions, you will have a chance to discuss the readings on Blackboard. At the mid-point of the semester, I will give you a chance to offer a self-evaluation of your participation in the class.

Each student should write four essays (three of 4-5 pages and one of 7-8 pages) on four different topics listed in the syllabus. Essays are due at the class meeting in which the topic is covered (no exceptions!). The longer essay should be written for the week you are assigned an extra book to read. These essays should represent your analysis and commentary on the issues and/or arguments raised by the readings. You should neither merely summarize the readings nor ramble incoherently. For the longer essay, you will most certainly want to compare and contrast how the two books you read approach the particular historical question we are examining. Overall, you should address what you have read in some creative and brilliant way. You can address any subject, but your essays should obviously focus on the assigned readings and should not focus too narrowly on some trivial point. Of course, your essays should be well written and well organized. Essays should be typed, double-spaced; you are permitted to use a parenthetical notation style for this assignment.

If you have to miss class, you need to let me know before class begins if at all possible. Also, you will need to prepare a written summary on the readings for any week you miss class (due the following class meeting).

A final exam will be given for this class, which will, of course, be comprehensive.

Readings Available at the UNCG Bookstore (and many other locations):

Eric Foner, A Short History of Reconstruction
Edward Blum, Reforging the White Republic
Glenda Gilmore, Gender and Jim Crow
Patricia Limerick, The Legacy of Conquest

Matthew Jacobson, Barbarian Virtues
Nancy Cott, The Grounding of Modern Feminism
Daniel Rodgers, Atlantic Crossings
Mae Ngai, Impossible Subjects
Anthony Badger, The New Deal: The Depression Years
David Kennedy, The American People in World War II
Melvyn Leffler, For the Soul of Mankind
Lizabeth Cohen, A Consumers' Republic
Lance Hill, The Deacons for Defense
Kevin Kruse, White Flight

Other readings:

The other readings mentioned in the syllabus are available electronically either on blackboard or through J-STOR.

Schedule

February 1: Reconstruction

Foner, A Short History of Reconstruction or Blum, Reforging the White Republic; Moore, "A One Hundred Years of Reconstruction in the South," Journal of Southern History v. 9 (May 1943) [JSTOR]

February 8: Race and the New South

Gilmore, Gender and Jim Crow; Kelly, "We Are Not What We Seem": Rethinking Black Working-Class Opposition in the Jim Crow South" Journal of American History v. 80 (June 1993) [JSTOR]

Additional Reading: Grace Elizabeth Hale, Making Whiteness

February 15: Western Settlement and the Frontier

Limerick, Legacy of Conquest; Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" (blackboard)

Additional reading: Louis Warren, Buffalo Bill's America

February 22: American Imperialism

Jacobson, Barbarian Virtues; Williams, "Imperial Anticolonialism" (blackboard)

Additional reading: Gail Bederman, Manliness and Civilization

March 1: Women in Twentieth-Century America

Cott, The Grounding of Modern Feminism; Kessler-Harris, "Maintaining Self-Respect" (blackboard)

Additional reading: Ruth Rosen, The World Split Open

March 15: The Progressive Movement

Rodgers, Atlantic Crossings; Wiebe, AA New Middle Class@ and AA Revolution in Values@ (blackboard)

Additional reading: Elizabeth Sanders, Roots of Reform

March 22: Immigration

Ngai, Impossible Subjects; Gerstle, "Liberty, Coercion, and the Making of Americans" Journal of American History v. 84 (September 1997) [JSTOR]

Additional reading: John Bodnar, The Transplanted

March 29: New Deal

Badger, The New Deal; Bernstein, "The Conservative Achievements of Liberal Reform" (blackboard); Levine, "American Culture and the Great Depression" (blackboard)

Additional reading: Lizabeth Cohen, Making a New Deal

April 5: World War II

Kennedy, The American People in World War II

Additional reading: John W. Dower, War Without Mercy

April 12: The Cold War

Leffler, For the Soul of Mankind; Friedman, "The Strange Career of Annie Lee Moss" (blackboard)

Additional reading: John Fousek, To Lead the Free World

April 19: Consumer Culture

Cohen, A Consumers' Republic; Zunz, "Turning Out Consumers" (blackboard)

April 26: Civil Rights

Hill; The Deacons for Defense; Hall, "The Long Civil Rights Movement and the Political Uses of the Past" Journal of American History v. 91 (March 2005) [JSTOR]; Klarman, "Why Massive Resistance?" (blackboard)

Additional reading: John Dittmer, Local People

May 3: The New Right

Kruse, White Flight; Brinkley, "The Problem of American Conservatism" American Historical Review v. 99 (April 1994) [JSTOR]

Additional reading: Dan Carter, The Politics of Rage

May 10: Final Exam

Grading:

Essays.....	45%
Class Participation.....	35%
Final Exam.....	20%